

# Board Okays \$200-\$300 Annual Pay Hike for Teachers

## Jury Clears Youth in Pedestrian Death



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# Mystery of Four 'Missing' Victims Cleared by Driver

## Jury Finds Youth Not Negligent

A coronor's jury Monday afternoon cleared a 16-year-old Torrance High School youth, John Dale Spiller, of any criminal negligence in the death of a 74-year-old retired nurse on November 6.

Spiller, who lives at 1103 Beech avenue, was cleared by a six-man jury of any criminal responsibility in the death of Miss Della E. James, 915A Amapola, Miss James died after being struck, according to the police reports, while crossing Torrance boulevard at Amapola avenue shortly after dark on Monday evening, November 6.

Russell Lund, local insurance broker, was elected foreman of the jury by the five other jury members including Sam Levy, Robert Almond, Blaine Walker, A. C. Turner, and Edwin E. Brown.

The jury instructed Lund to make a recommendation that the Torrance City Council investigate the section of Torrance boulevard to ascertain if the highway is sufficiently lighted.

Miss James' death was the second within 60 days to occur within that neighborhood on Torrance boulevard. The earlier accident having occurred one block west. On September 5, William H. Green, 88, was killed as he was crossing Torrance boulevard at Cota avenue in a similar auto-pedestrian accident.

## Plans Discussed for Visit Of Chest X-Ray Unit

Formulating plans for the visit of the Los Angeles County Chest X-Ray Unit to Torrance on December 18, members of the community and the X-Ray Survey Foundation met yesterday noon in the Torrance High School Auditorium.

Mayor Bob L. Haggard was chairman of the meeting.

Aim of the campaign, which is supported locally by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, is to x-ray everyone over the age of 15 years.



IT'S SMILE TIME . . . For Fire Chief Jake Benner as he measures the official rain gauge on top of the city's fire station. The Chief couldn't help but beam when he measured the 41 of an inch of rain and decided that was enough to put some life in the heretofore fire-happy grass around the city. (Herald photo).

## Muy Bueno

# Smokeater Glad 'The Rains Came'

The patter of rain on the roof was sweet, soothing music to Fire Chief Jake Benner and his crew of firemen this week.

"This should put an end to the man as winter got under," the chief beamed.

His firemen agreed almost way in earnest throughout the Southland when gentle, soaking rains blanketed the area Monday and Tuesday.

Captain Gene Walker sounded a disquieting note, however, when the subject of rain and grass fires was mentioned. "Yeah," he said, "But just think of all the grass that's going to grow now so it'll burn next summer."

People who save up for a rainy day kept the boys at Scotty's Roofing Service busy

## Youthful Owner Of \$17,000 Auto Clears Mystery

Mystery shrouding a flaming \$17,000 automobile and four 'victims' who disappeared shortly after an accident last Sunday, lifted yesterday as the owner of the car appeared to relate an action-packed story and one with a touch of heroism.

The mystery started Sunday morning when Torrance police received a call that a car, being towed at a high rate of speed, broke loose, skidded 300 feet, spewing four occupants about the countryside as it overturned and then burst into a bubbling mass of flames.

Witness to the incident which occurred on Pacific Coast highway near Vista del Parque, was City Judge Otto B. Willett. He and other witnesses said the injured were hustled into the towing car and apparently rushed to the hospital.

UNABLE TO LOCATE A check, by Sgt. Bill Evans, of the Torrance Police Department, of local hospitals, disclosed that no one had reported for treatment about the time of the accident.

By Tuesday afternoon no one had come forward to claim the charred and demolished wreckage, until George Joseph Ansite, of 321 Osgood street, Long Beach, came forward with the following version of the incident:

I WAS ALONG "I was clipping along Pacific Coast highway when suddenly in the middle of the road appeared a pedestrian. I swerved, hit a bank, overturned, and blacked out. When I came to, a friend of mine who was following me, Fred Tilden of Long Beach, was pulling me from the flaming car. There was no one with me and I can't imagine what the judge saw when he said there were four people lying on the ground."

Ansite said the demolished car was at one time insured for \$17,000. It was a 1939 Packard convertible with a Chapron custom body and mahogany interior. He said he was enroute to Hermosa Beach to sell the car when the accident happened.

TAKES RAP ON HEAD "I had just dropped my wife in Long Beach. Boy, am I glad she wasn't with me," he stated. Ansite suffered a bump on the head, a cut hand and other minor injuries.

Asked why he had not come forward to identify himself sooner, he replied: "I was afraid you were going to ask me that. You see, I just got married. You see, I understand I am due in Torrance court on a traffic ticket. I just got married, and frankly I wanted to raise the money before the judge set the fine."

When Ansite does show up on his traffic citation he will appear before Torrance's City Judge Otto B. Willett, witness to the freak accident.

## Christmas Mail Must Be Early

Santa Claus is cleaning up the odds and ends of his Christmas list and YOU had better do the same if you're mailing anything this year, warns Mrs. Clara Conner, Torrance's postmaster.

Deadline for packages destined for servicemen and others overseas was yesterday, Mrs. Conner said.

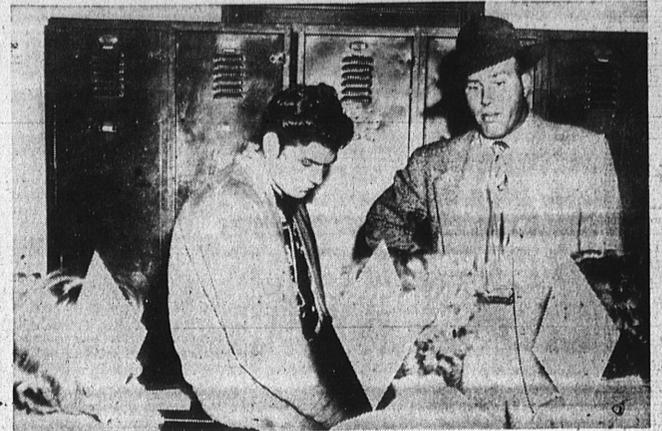
## Herald to Appear Tuesday, Not Thanksgiving Day

Next week's issue of the Torrance Herald will be published on Tuesday instead of Thursday—Thanksgiving Day.

The issue, carrying many money-saving bargains offered by local markets, will be published two days earlier than usual to allow local housewives to prepare for Thanksgiving festivities.

Carrier boys are to report to their distributors at the same hour Tuesday as they would normally on Thursday.

Deadline for display and classified ads will hit on Saturday at 1 p.m. News item deadline is Saturday noon.



DRAMATIC RE-MEETING . . . Three high school co-eds, all juveniles, take a look at suspect Nicholas Louis Mezin, left, in a San Pedro police station. Detective Adrian Thornberry, who arrested Mezin on a kidnaping charge, questions the girls.

## Bridegroom to Face Charges In Wave of Minor Sex Crimes

An alleged overfondness for shapely high school co-eds had a San Pedro bridegroom of two months in plenty of trouble today, none of it matrimonial.

Free on writ is Nicholas Louis Mezin, 18, who was arrested last week on suspicion of kidnaping in what police believe to be the solution to a wave of a dozen minor sex crimes here and in nearby communities.

## Fire Threatens Chemical Plant

A spectacular fire which broke out at the Stauffer Chemical Company at 202nd and Normandie yesterday afternoon was brought under control by Los Angeles City Firemen after an hour's battle.

Damage in the fire, which started in a still in the company's pilot plant, was estimated by firemen and company officials at \$5000.

In each case a man drove up in a car, asked the direction to Torrance, and acted as though he couldn't hear well. When the girl came closer to the car, he made improper advances.

In another instance, a man boldly followed his victim into a Pacific Coast highway mall shop after attempting to molest her outside. He sat next to her in the shop, she reported, and engaged her in a conversation concerning his wife.

Four of the girls picked up the stookey San Pedro youth out of a police lineup as the man who, on three separate occasions, had driven up in a late model sedan and accosted them. Some said he apparently tried to drag them into his car.

Det. Adrian Thornberry placed Mezin under arrest at his home after three Gardena girls took the license number of the auto in which they said the driver and another man took them to a lonely road Thursday and molested them.

Mezin was later released on a writ of habeas corpus. He is to appear today in Long Beach Superior Court to answer one charge of kidnaping and three charges of attempted kidnaping.

Thornberry, a resident of Torrance, said that the San Pedro police would handle the case for all the communities involved.

## Teachers To Receive Pay Hike

Provided funds are available next July, and there is every indication they will be, salaries of Torrance teachers will be upped from \$200 to \$300 yearly to bring the salaries more in line with other districts competing for a nearly-exhausted supply of teachers.

The action taken by the Board of Education at its regular meeting on November 7 will provide a beginning wage of \$3000 annually for teachers with an A. B. degree and a regular credential. Beginning pay at present is \$2850 according to Dr. J. Henrich Hull, superintendent of schools.

OVERDUE He said the present pay schedule had not been adjusted since it was adopted three years ago.

He said other districts had increased the pay schedule for both teachers and classified personnel (janitors, clerks, and maintenance men) and were luring teachers away from Torrance's rapidly expanding school district.

Dipping into the available supply of teachers also is the long hand of Uncle Sam.

Also upped were the salaries of classified personnel. The raise amounting to \$10 monthly will become effective December 1. Due to signed teacher contracts, covering the entire year, the teacher increases will become effective in July of 1951—end of the current fiscal year.

REFLECTED IN BUDGET The increases will be reflected in raises in the budget item provided for teacher salaries of approximately 2 1/2 per cent, Dr. Hull said. At present 65 per cent of the operating expenses are paid out in salaries.

Under new schedule from 65 to 70 per cent of the budget will be allocated for salaries. He said that a recent survey of other school districts indicated that closer to 70 per cent was being allocated in comparable districts to Torrance.

"If we are to lure the new teachers who will enter the field in the fall, we must bait our hooks with silver, not feathers," Dr. Hull said. He indicated that already certain vacancies in elementary teaching positions were difficult to fill with capable instructors.

The \$300 yearly raise will be realized by those teachers earning from \$2850 to \$4100 while those in the upper brackets, or above \$4100, will realize boosts of only \$200.

The same rate increase was voted on the principal schedules.

## Walteria Scouts Plan Open House Tomorrow

Open house will be observed tomorrow evening at the Walteria Recreation Hall by Troop 240 of the Boy Scouts, beginning at 7:30.

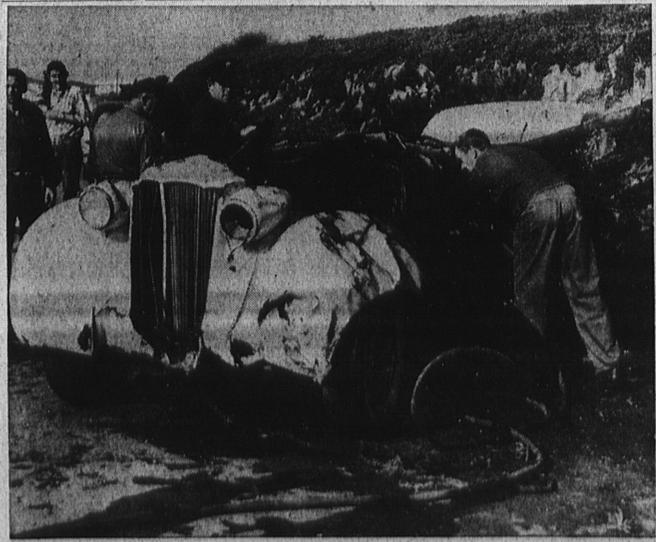
Examples of scouting and scout training will be demonstrated at the meeting which is open to all, according to William Lizut, Scoutmaster for the troop.



STRAWS IN THE WIND . . . Getting the feel of a handful of brooms so they can do their job right tomorrow, are Lions (left to right) Henry Berkowitz, Milt Isbell, Ray Rogers, Lowell Spring, Jack Abramson, Al Ewalt, Warren Hamilton, Kenneth Olson, A. G. Schilling and Allen Klitzker. They'll all be looking for you tomorrow. (Herald photo).



GEORGE ANSITE AND PATCH ON SKULL . . . Knot on His Head Is No Mystery



CONVERTED TO RUBBLE . . . Walteria firemen extinguished blaze which destroyed a \$17,000 convertible 'Mystery' coupe last Sunday. Four occupants 'mysteriously' disappeared after crash. Youthful driver came forward Tuesday to explain what happened to 'victims.'

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